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PP RUEHCHI RUEHCN RUEHHM
DE RUEHDT #0104 0991522
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 091522Z APR 09
FM AMEMBASSY DILI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4367
INFO RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 1273
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY 0999
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY 1114
RUEHDT/AMEMBASSY DILI 3889
RUEHXS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1107
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 0940
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 0053

UNCLAS DILI 000104

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP/MTS AND EAP/K

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TIMOR-LESTE "DEEPLY CONCERNED" BY NORTH KOREAN MISSILE LAUNCH

REF: STATE 33031

¶1. (SBU) Following up on an April 8 diplomatic note to Timor-Leste's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Charge, together with his Japanese counterpart, met April 9 with MFA Acting Secretary General Constancio Pinto to convey our concern over North Korea's April 5 missile launch. Drawing on reftel, we stressed that the launch was a clear violation of UNSCR 1718. We stressed that over the past years, the U.S., Japan, and other countries in Northeast Asia had demonstrated commitment to a diplomatic approach to the North Korean nuclear issue through the Six-Party talks. A clear, firm response from other Asian countries such as Timor-Leste would reinforce this approach, we noted. Japanese Charge Kimura stressed that the North Korean launch, although characterized by the DPRK as a satellite launch, used technology that was interoperable with weapons delivery, and had passed over Japanese territory.

¶2. (SBU) Pinto responded that the Timor-Leste government was seized with the issue and would likely issue a statement today. The GOTL, he said, was consulting with regional neighbors Indonesia and Malaysia. He added that, as President Ramos-Horta has pointed out, Asia is the most "nuclearized" continent on earth, and Timor-Leste does not want a regional arms race. Pinto also emphasized that Timor-Leste supported the Six-Party Talks and opposed any actions disruptive to that process.

¶3. (U) Later on April 9, the Foreign Ministry issued the following statement:

"The Government of Timor-Leste is deeply concerned by the launching of a Long Range Rocket at 11:30 a.m. on April 5, 2009 at Musudan-ri North Hamyong Province of North Korea. As a member of the United Nations and a signatory to the Treaty of Non-Proliferation, Timor-Leste (believes) action taken by the DPRK constitutes a threat to the regional and international security." End GOTL statement.

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